

MEDIA RELEASE

September 11, 2003
For Immediate Release

KBI Director Larry Welch and Attorney General Phill Kline announced today that the KBI has been awarded a \$233,832 grant to study bioterrorism concerns in Kansas. The National Institute of Justice, a division of the Department of Justice, awarded the funds yesterday to the KBI to support a research project to identify law enforcement challenges and needs to protect our agriculture economy from attack. A diverse research team has been assembled for this study, involving a partnership between the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), Ford County Sheriff's Department, and the National Agriculture Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University.

Four specific objectives for the research project have been established:

1. Identify bioterrorism vulnerabilities in the livestock industry.
2. Identify proactive measures and resources needed by law enforcement to prevent a bioterrorism attack on agriculture.
3. Establish a law enforcement response plan for bioterrorism attack on agriculture.
4. Develop a law enforcement training module on agricultural bioterrorism.

The final report will serve as a foundation for law enforcement agencies to adopt a response plan and policies to prevent and respond to bioterrorism threats targeted at agriculture in Kansas.

"It is fitting that this award comes as we are remembering 9-11" said Attorney General Kline. "Kansans must do all that we can to prevent and prepare against terrorism. Forgetting or failure to prepare are simply not options."

Contact Person:

Kyle G. Smith
Director of Public and Governmental Affairs
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
785-296-8211